

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the present application. Claims 13-15 are allowed, and claims 2-5 and 8-11 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 16 and 17 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by new reference Nakatsugawa et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0186679).

A brief description of Nakatsugawa is as follows.

Nakatsugawa is directed to a mobile node supporting router connected to a network on which a Mobile IPv4/v6 operates. The mobile node supporting router includes an encapsulating cache which stores binding information of a mobile node, and a processor which encapsulates a packet addressed to the mobile node with a care-of address included in the binding information at a foreign link interface. Also, the processor receives a binding demand packet from the mobile node, and stores the binding information included in the binding demand packet in the encapsulating cache. Furthermore, the processor of the foreign link interface exchanges mobile IP messages instead of a home agent of the mobile node, and the cache stores the binding information of the mobile node included in the message. *See Abstract of Nakatsugawa.*

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicants submit that Nakatsugawa does not disclose or suggest at least, “a database, which stores information indicating whether the home agent operates normally according to the result of the analysis,” and “a home agent function executor, which performs a home agent function in place of the home agent when the home agent does not operate normally,” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner cites Fig. 6, element 13\_2, numbered paragraph 15, element 11, and numbered paragraph 181 of Nakatsugawa as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted features. First, the Examiner does not specifically identify what component of Nakatsugawa corresponds to the claimed apparatus for managing at least one

home agent of a home network. According to Applicants' understanding of the Examiner's rejections, it appears that the Examiner believes that the router 100 of Fig. 6 of Nakatsugawa allegedly satisfies the claimed apparatus. Based on this understanding, Applicants arguments are as follows.

The Examiner alleges that element 13\_2 of Fig. 6 corresponds to the claimed database and the Examiner also cites paragraph 15 of Nakatsugawa. According to Applicants' understanding, the processor 13\_2 does not correspond to the claimed database as the processor 13\_2 does not appear to store information indicating whether the at least one home agent operates normally according to the results of an analysis. There is no discussion of the above-emphasized feature in any of the cited portions of Nakatsugawa.

The Examiner cites element 11 of Fig. 6 and numbered paragraph 181 of Nakatsugawa as allegedly satisfying the home agent function executor and its claimed attributes. That is, the Examiner alleges that home agent 11 of Fig. 6 corresponds to the claimed home agent function executor (which constitutes the claimed apparatus). However, claim 1 recites that the claimed home agent function executor performs a home agent function in place of a home agent when the home agent does not operate normally. Here, clearly the home agent 11 of Nakatsugawa cannot perform a home agent function in place of a home agent since element 11 is a home agent. Yet further, nowhere does the applied reference disclose or suggest that a home agent function executor perform a home agent function in place of the at least one home agent when the at least one home agent does not operate normally. According to Applicants' understanding, nowhere is the above-underlined feature mentioned in Nakatsugawa. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that Nakatsugawa does not anticipate claim 1.

Applicants submit that independent claims 7 and 16 are patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Applicants submit that dependent claim 6 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 1.

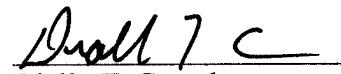
With respect to independent claim 12, Applicants submit that Nakatsugawa does not disclose or suggest at least, "when a binding acknowledgement message for the binding update message is not received within a predetermined period of time, performing a home agent function in place of the home agent of the home network," as recited in claim 12. The Examiner does not even address the above-quoted feature of claim 12, and this feature is not appear to be disclosed or suggested by Nakatsugawa.

Applicants submit that dependent claim 17 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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